

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DEREK MOULD

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I, Derek Mould, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Derek Mould, DOB GRO-C 1952, and my address is GRO-C  
GRO-C
2. I was infected with Hepatitis C after receiving contaminated blood products.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

#### Section 2. How Infected

4. Both my brother and I were diagnosed with mild Christmas disease, Factor IX deficiency (now known as Haemophilia B). I suffered various bleeds when I was younger following tooth extractions and the removal of my tonsils, which I do not know how I survived.
5. I have been treated at a number of different hospitals. These include the now closed Stockton & Thornaby Hospital for my tonsillectomy, North Riding Infirmary for clinics, Middlesbrough General Hospital for tooth extractions, and the John Radcliffe Hospital where I was diagnosed with Haemophilia.

6. I have been treated with cryoprecipitate and Factor IX concentrate.
7. I suffered an Achilles tendon injury and I was taken to the Sheffield Royal Infirmary around 1978 and I stayed at the hospital for 1-2 weeks.
8. I was given no information as to any risk of infection from using blood products.
9. I was unaware that I had been infected with the Hepatitis C virus until I attended clinic at Lincoln Haemophilia Centre for review. I do not know whether the doctors were aware of an infection risk prior to the blood test which indicated the exposure. I do not recall the circumstances or whether I was informed about being tested for Hepatitis C.
10. To my knowledge, and as far as I recall, I was given every consideration and courtesy by the consultant physician at Lincoln County Hospital, who was able to communicate on a professional level and in the light of my experience thus far, I do not express any dissatisfaction in regard to their management of my condition but I have not yet had access to my clinical records and until I have I will reserve any other judgement.
11. I do not recall a conversation regarding the possible routes of transmission, but it must have been discussed as I have a letter from Dr Dennis R. Prangell dated 26.10.1993 confirming that my wife tested negative for Hepatitis C, exhibited at **WITNXXXX002**. It follows that my wife Elizabeth Anne was upset by the knowledge of my infection and its potential ramifications for our future as we had borrowed money to set up our business together so it was of very great concern to us both. My wife was an affected person therefore and the possibility of her potential infection through our sexual intimacy was traumatic for both of us. Thankfully she was not infected, but I have absolutely no doubt that the negative psychological effects impacted on both of us and destroyed our marriage. We had always had a happy marriage and a healthy and fulfilled sexual relationship but the impact of knowing I might infect her (and subsequent to our separation any future sexual partner) was devastating.
12. I recall at the time that a test for HIV was not looked upon kindly by life insurance companies and, as an aside, when I engaged sickness and accident insurance with the Medical Sickness Society, I was told that any issues related to haemophilia would not be covered.

13. I was aware, through my clinical practice and post graduate studies, of the risks regarding Hepatitis B and the latent manifestation of HIV so when I became aware of the risk posed by contaminated blood the knowledge was somewhat Damoclesian. Thankfully I was infected by neither pathogen but in regard to prion exposure and vCJD I still wait for the sword to fall.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

14. I am "at increased risk" of vCJD. I am uncertain of my status in regard to prion exposure / vCJD as there is currently no ante-mortem test available. I received a letter from the consultant haematology at Lincoln County Hospital which I have yet to locate informing me of my exposure to the risk; again the effects were Damoclesian and destructive of my professional and personal circumstances.

### **Section 4. Consent.**

15. I do not currently believe that I have been tested without my knowledge however I will reserve judgement and a definitive response until I have been able to review my medical records.

16. Without effective and comprehensive communication of information there can be no understanding and therefore no informed consent, so it is possible that I was treated and/or tested without my consent.

17. I am not currently aware that I have been treated or tested for the purposes of research.

### **Section 5. Impact**

18. I do not recall feeling ill during the period over which my Hepatitis C remained undiagnosed but no doubt my medical records will be of interest. The psychological and emotional effects of knowing I had been infected were significant. I suffered from depression and had to suppress my anger.

19. As far as I am aware to date I have been spared the major complications despite suffering relatively chronic liver discomfort and intermittent bowel discomfort.
20. I underwent three courses of Interferon treatment in an attempt to cure the virus. The final course was in 2000 when I was also given Ribavirin. The treatment was quite daunting with significant side effects and the fact that I have retained the boxes is testimony to the impact it had on my psyche. At present I am unaware of any alternative treatments that were available.
21. I suffered from a range of emotional responses to my treatment. This included anger, grief, depression, intolerance, irritability and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. These were and continue to be difficult to manage.
22. Physically, I suffered from erectile dysfunction and chronic tiredness. It has also resulted in precocious and impaired social and professional awareness and impulsive behaviour. I also suffer from poor judgement on inter-personal, employment and financial issues. I became cavalier in my attitude and over-optimistic; rather than practical, cautious and analytical as I had been before treatment.
23. I suffered from flu-like symptoms, muscle aches and fatigue following each Interferon injection, which I received three times a week. The physical and mental effects of the treatment were debilitating.
24. I was a non-smoker until September 2008. This was perhaps a self-harm issue but certainly a response to increased stress. I also noted an increased alcohol intake during this time. I stopped smoking two years ago.
25. My marriage was destroyed although my wife and I continued to work together amicably after our separation until I was able to engage other assistance and we remained friends until her untimely death in 2009.
26. My wife and I bought a large Edwardian property in 1981, where I lived until 2015. I loved that property; it was my haven of peace and tranquillity. My garden was a retreat and spiritually uplifting – a counter-balance to my busy and demanding professional life. When my wife and I separated I re-mortgaged the property to enable her to buy another which increased my financial burden.

27. I do not recall when I told my parents and brother of my infection. I did not wish to worry them unduly or become a burden. It may not have been until I was in remission following my Interferon treatment. When I eventually told them, they were very supportive.
28. My wife and parents are deceased so I unable to ask them on the impact on their lives, but my brother is like me; fairly pragmatic, caring, Christian and outgoing. I therefore expect any feelings he has are of a sympathetic and supportive nature. He has his own life and his own family and we carry on as normal.
29. I became socially withdrawn because of chronic tiredness and sexually suppressed because I knew that the virus was sexually transmissible. Whilst my wife had thankfully not been infected I did not want to expose anyone to the infection. This probably contributed to my performance anxiety and erectile dysfunction. I discussed this with my doctor who prescribed Viagra which did not appear to have much benefit, so I stopped using it and I have not had a sexual relationship since 2011. Self-reliance, self-worth, resilience and interaction with my cat, Thomas, sustained me through this extremely difficult time.
30. I have not encountered or perceived any stigma in my personal, family or social life, but in regard to my professional work I do consider and assert that I was subjected to discrimination and orchestrated prejudice by officers of Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust when I informed them of my infection.
31. I was subsequently targeted by the General Dental Council (GDC) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), both regulatory bodies being under the control of the Committee for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence and ultimately the Secretary of State for Health, specifically because I was, as they perceived it, an 'at risk' clinician.
32. I was suspended by the GDC for failing to complete a personal development plan in the allocated time. I consider that this was an orchestrated manoeuvre related to my health issues and not for the reasons officially recorded. I was also accused of being arrogant; either a misplaced perception or outright fabrication.
33. The loss of my dental practice was devastating and from time to time I had suicidal thoughts. I regained my dental registration and GDC number, but the CQC refused to validate my location. In any event, I was unable to obtain medico-legal insurance, a pre-

requisite for clinical practice. I approached the Dental Defence Union and Dental Protection. Both refused to help and neither would offer a reason for the refusal.

34. The side effects and consequences of Interferon treatment had a devastating impact on my ability to focus on and service NHS paperwork for submission to the Dental Practice Board. This meant that I wasn't being paid for the work, especially in regard to children and others exempt from dental charges. There was therefore an impact on allocated super-annuation payments and ultimately on the occupational pension which I now receive.
35. No patients suffered because of my infection and treatment. The only victims were me, my wife and the loyal staff who lost their jobs when I became unable to continue the business. I assert that at no time did I allow my condition to impact on my clinical work. My business had been established for 35 years. I did not have a patient complaint over my entire professional career which could not be resolved in-house.
36. My work was my life. I enjoyed my work although it was pressured. I gained much self-worth by focussing on patient's and their problems and achieved good results. I would still be working now but for my infection.
37. The prejudiced attention I received as a result of my infection and subsequent consequences destroyed my finances and my business, and led to me having to sell my home in order to clear accrued debt. I was advised to declare myself bankrupt by voluntary arrangement but remain of the opinion that this is dishonourable, unethical and immoral course of action so I did not follow it.
38. To add insult to injury, I was the target of a special investigation by the HMRC for two years as my accounts were much less than the average dental practice. This investigation caused me significant additional stress and financial expense, not only in engaging professional support from accountants but also from deflecting my work and earning from my business. I was presented with ludicrous demands for £100,000 in unpaid tax which after much obfuscation was withdrawn.
39. I found it difficult to concentrate on my post-graduate studies but nevertheless maintained the effort. I have always engaged and maintained a healthy interest in continuing my professional development.

40. I am not aware that my exposure to Hepatitis C has impacted on my medical care, although my vCJD status demands certain surgical protocols are met to reduce the risk of cross-infection.
41. I loved my home and my work. The loss of both was a devastating blow from which I have not yet recovered.
42. Having to relive these events for the Inquiry is traumatic but I am grateful that the issue will be thoroughly investigated.

### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

43. I do not recall facing any problems in accessing treatment however a letter to my haematologist confirms that funding was made available to me as a one-off for my treatment with Interferon and Ribavirin. This is exhibited at **WITNXXXX003**.
44. Counselling and psychological support has been minimal and mostly self taught. I have worked out my stress in various gyms over time and had a training room in my home.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

45. I received the Stage One Payment from the Skipton Fund after a friend researched and initiated the process for me.
46. I currently receive monthly payments from EIBSS of £333.33 plus annual cold weather payments.
47. I am not aware of any difficulties or obstacles in obtaining financial assistance and there were no preconditions imposed as far as I can recall.
48. I have never questioned the payments offered since other people set that agenda. I am grateful to have received what has been offered. There are many infected and affected people whose circumstance is worse than mine, and I count myself lucky that I am still alive.

49. While I was suspended from the Dental Register I approached the Benevolent Fund of the British Dental Association, of which at the time I was a member and they kindly assisted me in the sum of £150 which was much appreciated.

50. I receive an occupational pension which would have probably been greater had I not been infected.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

51. I have lost everything I worked to build and to achieve in the public interest. I was altruistic and always improved the health and well-being of those who trusted in my care – contrary to the ruthless approach of those in authority who engineered my demise.

52. I consider that the main culpability lies in the sourcing, manufacture and supply, procurement and distribution of the infected medication for profit, and the failure of the NHS governance.

#### **Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

53. I do not wish to apply for anonymity.

54. I would like to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

#### **Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed. GRO-C

Dated. 27 FEBRUARY 2019